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**INTERIM GUIDELINES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF INFLUENZA
VACCINE**
Effective October 27, 2004

I. Inactivated Influenza Vaccine

Based on the most recent information about the influenza vaccine supply in the Commonwealth, it will be necessary to further prioritize existing doses for those individuals who have the greatest risk of severe complications or life threatening illness from influenza and some categories of health care workers. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has determined that health care providers should use the limited supply of inactivated influenza vaccine for individuals in the following high risk categories, which are considered of equal importance:

- All children aged 6 to 23 months;
- All adults aged ≥ 75 years;
- Residents of long-term care and assisted living facilities;
- Children aged 6 months to 18 years on chronic aspirin therapy;
- Individuals aged 2 to 74 years with one or more chronic medical conditions requiring frequent or ongoing medical management. This includes individuals with a chronic disorder of the pulmonary or cardiovascular system, and those with chronic metabolic diseases, renal dysfunction, hemoglobinopathies or immunosuppression;

This **does not** include adults 18 to 49 years of age with diabetes who only require diet or exercise for control.

This **does not** include adults whose only condition is hyperlipidemia, controlled hypertension, arthritis, dermatitis, or any other diagnosis which does not increase the risk of complications from influenza.

- All women who will be pregnant during the influenza season;
- All health care workers \geq 50 years of age who provide direct patient care and those 49 years of age and younger who provide direct patient care to severely immunocompromised patients in protected environments, because these health care workers are not eligible for FluMist[®];
- Any other individual who is in a high risk category, as defined by the October 5, 2004 Recommendations of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, and who, in the professional judgment of their health care provider, is at high risk for severe complications or life threatening illness from influenza.

II. Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (FluMist[®])

FluMist[®] is only approved for use in healthy individuals 5 to 49 years of age. There is a limited supply of FluMist[®] vaccine which necessitates that health care providers vaccinate on a priority basis those individuals who are the household contacts of, or provide care for, persons at greatest risk from the complications of influenza. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has determined that health care providers should use the limited supply of FluMist[®] on a priority basis for individuals in the following categories:

- Health care workers 49 years of age or younger should be vaccinated with FluMist[®] if they: (1) are not in any high risk category above, and (2) do not have direct contact with severely immunocompromised patients in a protected environment.
 - Health care workers with limited or no direct patient contact should not be vaccinated this year.
- Household contacts and caregivers of individuals at increased risk of complications from influenza, including children less than 6 months of age.

As used in these Guidelines, “health care workers who provide direct patient care” means emergency department staff, intensive care unit and specialized unit staff, medical/surgical staff, transplant and dialysis unit staff, or staff in other units where

severely immunocompromised patients are cared for in a protected environment, and emergency medical technician first responders involved in patient transport.

The Department will continue to closely monitor the influenza vaccine supply. As more doses become available, additional high risk groups, including healthy individuals 65 to 74 years of age may be added to the prioritized groups.